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Together we CAN!



Dear Alumni,

Greetings!

It was wonderful to meet so many of you who attended the Alumni Reconnect on April 11! Within this month's newsletter, you will find great photographs from that event.

The Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) fever has just subsided, and we are pleased to say that 15 alumni teams from the Chennai region submitted projects! One of the 15 projects has moved to the next round. We thank all our alumni who proposed wonderful projects; they were really difficult to short-list!

We take this opportunity to welcome into the alumni family several new members who have just returned from exchange programs in the United States. Lets us all look forward to engaging with them in the coming weeks.

Please remember that we invite and encourage you to regularly contribute to this newsletter with interesting anecdotes, press clippings, photographs, short write ups and anything else that would help us highlight you, your work, or your U.S. experience. We also welcome your ideas and suggestions to improve the content of this newsletter.

On a closing note, we congratulate India and all its citizens for successfully conducting and participating in one of the world's biggest and most closely watched democratic exercises!

Happy reading!

David Gainer, Public Affairs Officer



Breathing

Everything happens so quickly
before I can feel it.
I keep trying to feel something
before it's too late.
It all happens in my name
without me being there.
Flowers, people,
the world is so much bigger than me.
Should I carry on breathing
If I'm not really here?

Translated by Hari Rajaledchumy.

From the collection Chuttum Vizhichchudar.

IVLP Alumnus [Rajathi Samsudeen](#) aka “Salma” was the only poet from South Asia to attend the Commonwealth Poetry Conclave, Scotland



BBC Radio Scotland - Commonwealth Poetry Postcards, India: Salma



Student leader and entrepreneur Ms. Sruthakeerthi Mohan Ram participated in the Model United Nations in Almaty, Kazakhstan as one of the 200 future leaders from eight Central and South Asian countries who gathered to discuss and propose solutions for common security, social, and economic problems. The delegates discussed the situation in Afghanistan, international narcotics trade, violence against women, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion.

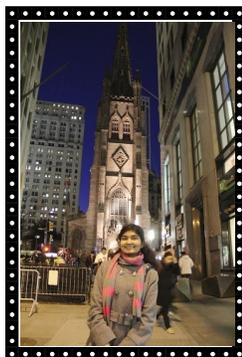
Organized by the U.S. Consulate General, Almaty, the event served as a networking opportunity for the region's young leaders, allow-

ing them to meet one another and forge relationships that can grow into a valuable network as they move forward in their careers.

Ms. Sruthakeerthi is a student of MOP Vaishnav College, Chennai, and is the founder of an innovative start-up “Scan on Wheels” which provides a quick, convenient, and affordable solution to digital scanning needs.

SPOTLIGHT—MEET RECENT GRANTEES!

The **Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD Program)** provides semester and academic year scholarships to outstanding undergraduate students from underrepresented sectors in East Asia, Eurasia and Central Asia, the Near East and South Asia, and the Western Hemisphere for non-degree full-time study combined with community service, internships, and cultural enrichment. See more at: <http://eca.state.gov/fulbright/information/undergraduate-and-graduate-students#sthash.bp4hF5Np.dpuf>



Smriti Mohan from Palai, Kerala is currently pursuing her year-long internship at Utica College, New York. Recovering from the early culture shock upon landing in the United States, Smriti now has a better understanding of the American way of life and thinking. She had her first ‘Sushi’ meal in the U.S. with a Japanese roommate, and celebrated Holi. She cherishes the certificate from her alma mater that commends her “for her willingness to take chances and her commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.”

Sherin Sabu, student of sociology from Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Kochi, recently returned from her year-long internship at Chatham College, Pittsburgh. What she cherishes the most is having met some wonderful women from all over the world who received the International Women of Courage Awards from Secretary Kerry on March 8 (including Ms. Laxmi, the courageous acid-attack survivor from India).



Jenifer Raj—From Fatima College, Madurai went to the U.S. on a NES A UGRAD scholarship in 2012 to the Jackson State University majoring in journalism. The program she says “gave her a new perspective about life.” Besides learning belly dancing from an Algerian friend, a little bit of hip hop, her program gave her a positive outlook to tackling social problems. Jackson State is the place which also kindled the feminist in her. Jenifer is currently pursuing her post graduate degree in English, at the same time preparing to get into the Indian Administrative Service. While chatting with her NES A UGRAD friends many of whom she is in touch with, she recalls all the unusual things she did in the U.S. (which includes tasting ‘alligator soup’).



Chellam Chockalingam’s life-changing moments happened in Old Dominion University (ODU). She realized the joy of volunteering on that freezing Thanksgiving Day in 2011 (when she chose to distribute food at a homeless shelter instead of shopping with friends). The sense of fulfilling a social obligation made her steer her career path and she is currently working as an associate at Chrysalis, an educational outreach NGO in Madurai. She dreams of starting an NGO of her own after obtaining a degree in management.



Have you been to the American Library yet?

The American Library in Chennai offers a wide range of resources, programs and services to provide accurate and up-to-date information on contemporary American government, its policies, institutions, society, culture and values, literature, history, international relations, U.S. economy and global issues. The Library serves people from all walks of life, including students and teachers, researchers, government officials, politicians, media representatives, and businessmen. In addition to books and magazines, the Library provides access to a large number of full texts articles through subscriptions to commercial electronic databases. A library membership gives remote access to eLibraryUSA to individual members 24/7 from work/home. The current fee structure is as follows:

One Year Enrollment Processing Fee Rs.400.00

Two Years Enrollment Processing Fee Rs.700.00

Individual members can borrow four books, two back issues of journals and remote access to eLibraryUSA. The library provides regular eUpdates consisting of interesting and useful links, JUST IN: New Books @ the Library, eInfo packs on important topics, eNewsletters, to its members. This May, the library is screening children's movies @ 10.30 a.m. and Clint Eastwood Films @ 2.00 p.m. every Saturday. All are welcome but have conform to entry requirements.



**Saturday
Film Screenings**

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY
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**MAY 2014
SUMMER
SIZZLERS**

Children's Film Fest

Kaleidoscope of Clint Eastwood Films

EPIC

When her father Professor Bomba doesn't return after a day of research, teenage Mary Katherine goes looking for him and is magically transported to a forest world, where she teams up with a band of misfit warriors called the Last Men and fights to stop the villainous Mandrake and his army of Boggans from destroying the forest, all while trying to return to her father and the world she loves.

May 3 10.30 a.m.
2010, 102 minutes

EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE

Actors: Clint Eastwood, Sondra Locke, Geoffrey Lewis, Beverly D'Angelo
Director: James Fargo

Philo Baddoo (Eastwood) is your regular, easygoing, truck-driving guy. He's also the best barroom brawler west of the Rockies. And he lives with a 165-pound orangutan named Clyde. Like other guys, Philo finally falls in love—with a flighty singer who leads him on a screwball chase across the American Southwest. Nothing's in the way except a motorcycle gang, two sneaky-off-duty cops and legendary brawler Tank Murdock.

May 3 02.00 p.m.
1978, 114 minutes

MEGAMIND

Super villain Megamind's (Will Ferrell) dreams have come true when he conquers the city's protector Metro Man (Brad Pitt) gaining control of Metro City. But when a new villain (Jonah Hill) is created and chaos runs rampant, the world's biggest "minds" and his comic sidekick Minion (David Cross) might actually save the day.

May 10 10.30 a.m.
2010, 95 minutes

MAGNUM FORCE

Actors: Clint Eastwood, Hal Holbrook, David Soul, Robert Urich, Tim Matheson
Director: Ted Post

Magnum Force, which is a sequel to Dirty Harry has Eastwood reprise his famous role as Inspector Callahan, which has him face crooked cops and a traitorous boss as well as suffering re-assignment from homicide to stakeout duty after his handling of the Scorpio case. Callahan and his new partner, Earlington—Early—Smith (Felton Perry), are called off a case in which a man acquitted of murder is found dead along with his chauffeur, lawyer and bodyguard. Soon after, a mafia figure, and several of his family and friends are also gunned down. Then, a well-known pimp is murdered too. Callahan and Earlington soon re-assigned to investigate the homicides.

May 10 02.00 p.m.
1973, 124 minutes

TARZAN

This story of the ape man begins deep within the jungle when baby Tarzan is adopted by a family of gorillas. Even though he is shunned as a "hairless wonder" by their leader, Tarzan is accepted by the gorillas and raised as one of their own. His "two worlds" collide with the arrival of humans, forcing Tarzan to choose between a "civilized" life with the beautiful Jane and the life he knows and loves with his gorilla family.

May 17 10.30 a.m.
1980, 88 minutes

ESCAPE FROM ALCATRAZ

Actors: Clint Eastwood, Patrick McGowan, Fred Ward, Roberts Blossom, Jack Thibault
Director: Don Siegel

Based on the true story of the only escape from Alcatraz, Escape from Alcatraz stars Clint Eastwood as inmate Frank Morris, the man who plans the escape. When he arrives at Alcatraz, Morris has an interview with the pompous warden (Patrick McGowan), who assures him that the prison is escape-proof, well aware of his record of prison breaks. Upon entering the prison population, Morris makes friends with some of the inmates, including Doc (Roberts Blossom), an old timer who puts in his cell, and English (Paul Benjamin), the prison librarian. As Morris finds that his old friends, the Anglin brothers Jack (Fred Ward) and Clarence (Jack Thibault), have arrived in Alcatraz, he knows that with them he can make a break.

May 17 02.00 p.m.
1979, 114 minutes

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

Welcome to Hotel Transylvania! Dracula's lavish five-star resort where monsters and their families can live it up and no humans are allowed. One special weekend Dracula (Adam Sandler) has invited all his best friends Frankenstein and his wife the Mummy (the Invisible Man) the Werewolf family and more to celebrate his beloved daughter Mavis's (Selena Gomez) 118th birthday. For Dracula, catering to all of these legendary monsters is no problem but the party really starts when one ordinary guy stumbles into the hotel and changes everything!

May 24 10.30 a.m.
2012, 91 minutes

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

Actors: Clint Eastwood, Meryl Streep, Anie Corby, Victor Serran, Jim Haynie
Director: Clint Eastwood

World-traveling National Geographic photographer Robert Kincaid and Iowa housewife Francesca Johnson aren't looking to turn their lives upside down. Each is at a point in life where expectations are behind them. Yet four days after they meet, they don't want to lose the love they've found. Academy Award winners Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood (earning her 10th Oscar nomination for her work here) and Clint Eastwood (who also produces and directs) bring blazing star power and powerful conviction to the lovers chronicled in Robert James Waller's romantic bestseller.

May 24 02.00 p.m.
1996, 135 minutes

SHARK TALE

Oscar (Will Smith), a lowly tongue-scrubber at the local Whale Wash, becomes an improbable hero when he tells a great white lie. To keep his secret, Oscar teams up with an outcast vegetarian shark, Lenny (Jack Black), and the two become the most unlikely of friends. When his lie begins to unravel, it's up to Oscar's loyal friend Angie (Renée Zellweger) and Lenny to help him stand up to the most feared shark in the water (Robert De Niro) and find his true place in the reef.

May 31 10.30 a.m.
2004, 90 minutes

UNFORGIVEN

Actors: Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman, Richard Harris (3)
Director: Clint Eastwood

Little Bill Daggett (Gene Hackman), a sadistic, dictatorial sheriff, enforces gun control on a tiny frontier town, doing out his own brand of due process as he sees fit. When he denies justice to the prostitutes of the town brothel, one of whom has been slapped by a client, the women hire Bill Munny (Eastwood), a reformed gunslinger, to gain vengeance. However, Munny must contend with his new moral code in the face of revisiting the life he left behind.

May 31 02.00 p.m.
1992, 131 minutes

Entry Requirements:

- Visitors are requested to conform to security regulations and produce a valid original Photo Identification (ID) at the Consulate's Cathedral Road entrance.
- Acceptable photo IDs are: passport, driver's license, voter ID card, PAN card, government employer issued IDs or school / college / university issued ID. The Consulate will only accept original IDs and not photocopies.
- All electronic devices must be deposited with the security staff before entering the Consulate.
- Please note that there is no car/two wheeler parking facility in the Consulate premises.

The programs are subject to change.
Please refer the website for updates:
<http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/safmatline.html>

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About C.A.N.:

The Public Affairs Office at the U.S. Consulate in Chennai publishes this monthly newsletter to connect with Indian alumni of U.S. exchange programs in Chennai's consular district. The newsletter features alumni news by highlighting recent events and activities as well as U.S. Consulate Chennai's outreach programs. It is also a platform for alumni to share their success stories and spread the word about interesting opportunities. The newsletter provides alumni with updated information, resources, job and training opportunities and upcoming events and programs deadlines.

Keep in touch and send us your suggestions for alumni events, inquiries, success stories, and proposals. We welcome your comments!

Contact Alumni Coordinator, Brindha Jayakanth at: jayakanthb@state.gov.

Closed Facebook groups:

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KL-YES Returnees from Bangalore, Chennai and Trivandrum 

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Global Leadership Institute Alumni 



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